

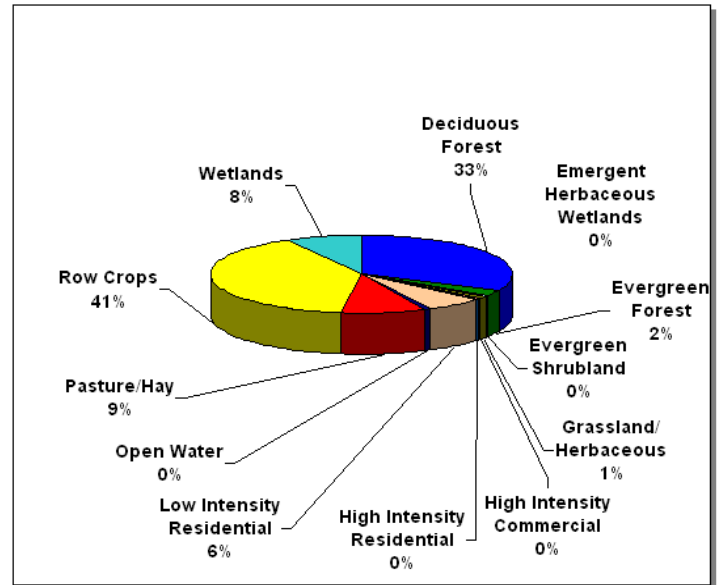
## Summary – South Fork Obion River Watershed (08010203)

In 1996, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Division of Water Pollution Control adopted a watershed approach to water quality. This approach is based on the idea that many water quality problems, like the accumulation of point and nonpoint pollutants, are best addressed at the watershed level. Focusing on the whole watershed helps reach the best balance among efforts to control point sources of pollution and polluted runoff as well as protect drinking water sources and sensitive natural resources such as wetlands. Tennessee has chosen to use the USGS 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC-8) as the organizing unit.

The Watershed Approach recognizes awareness that restoring and maintaining our waters requires crossing traditional barriers (point vs. nonpoint sources of pollution) when designing solutions. These solutions increasingly rely on participation by both public and private sectors, where citizens, elected officials, and technical personnel all have opportunities to participate. The Watershed Approach provides the framework for a watershed-based and community-based approach to address water quality problems.

Chapter 1 of the South Fork Obion River Watershed Water Quality Management Plan discusses the Watershed Approach and emphasizes that the Watershed Approach is not a regulatory program or an EPA mandate; rather it is a decision-making process that reflects a common strategy for information collection and analysis as well as a common understanding of the roles, priorities, and responsibilities of all stakeholders within a watershed. Traditional activities like permitting, planning and monitoring are also coordinated in the Watershed Approach.

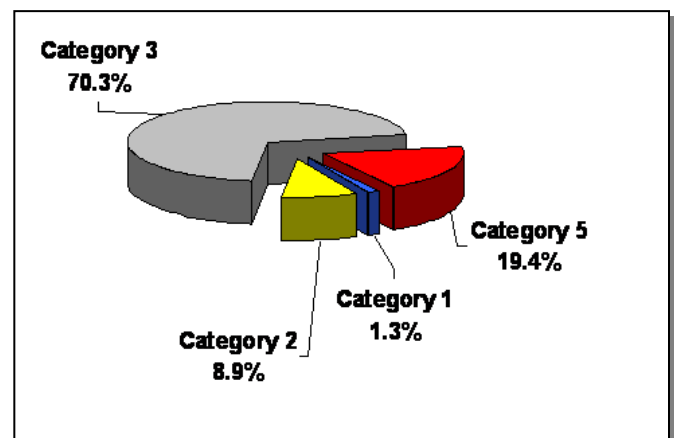
A detailed description of the watershed can be found in Chapter 2. The South Fork Obion River Watershed is approximately 1,157 square miles and includes parts of six Tennessee counties. A part of the Mississippi River drainage basin, the watershed has 1,841.1 stream miles.



*Land Use Distribution in the South Fork Obion River Watershed.*

One designated state natural area, three wildlife management areas, and four state wildlife refuges are located in the watershed. Twenty-two rare plant and animal species have been documented in the watershed, including two rare fish species.

A review of water quality sampling and assessment is presented in Chapter 3. Using the Watershed Approach to Water Quality, 482 sampling events occurred in the South Fork Obion River Watershed in 2000-2005. These were conducted at ambient, ecoregion or watershed monitoring sites. Monitoring results support the conclusion that 34.5% of stream miles assessed fully support one or more designated uses.



*Water Quality Assessment of Streams and Rivers in the South Fork Obion River Watershed. Assessment data are based on the 2006 Water Quality Assessment of 1,841.1 stream miles in the watershed.*

Also in Chapter 3, a series of maps illustrates overall use support in the watershed, as well as use support for the individual uses of Fish and Aquatic Life Support, Recreation, Irrigation, and Livestock Watering and Wildlife. Another map illustrates streams that are listed for impairment by specific causes (siltation).

Point and Nonpoint Sources are addressed in Chapter 4 which is organized by HUC-12 subwatersheds. Maps illustrating the locations of STORET monitoring sites and stream gauging stations are also presented in each subwatershed.

HUC-8	HUC-10	HUC-12
08010203	0801020301	080102030101 (Beaver Creek)
		080102030102 (South Fork Obion River)
		080102030103 (South Fork Obion River)
		080102030104 (Reedy Creek)
		080102030105 (South Fork Obion River)
		080102030106 (South Fork Obion River)
	0801020302	080102030201 (Crooked Creek)
		080102030202 (Guins Creek)
	0801020303	080102030301 (Middle Fork Obion River)
		080102030302 (Middle Fork Obion River)
		080102030303 (Middle Fork Obion River)
		080102030304 (Thompson Creek)
		080102030305 (Middle Fork Obion River)
	0801020304	080102030401 (Spring Creek, Upper)
		080102030402 (Spring Creek, Lower)
	0801020305	080102030501 (Mud Creek, Upper)
		080102030502 (Mud Creek, Lower)
		080102030503 (Cane Creek)
	0801020306	080102030601 (Rutherford Fork Obion River)
		080102030602 (Rutherford Fork Obion River)
		080102030603 (Rutherford Ford Obion River)
		080102030604 (Wolf Creek)
		080102030605 (Rutherford Fork Obion River)
		080102030606 (Rutherford Fork Obion River)

*The South Fork Obion River Watershed is Composed of twenty-four USGS-Delineated Subwatersheds (12-Digit Subwatersheds).*

Point source contributions to the Tennessee portion of the South Fork Obion River Watershed consist of 21 individual NPDES-permitted facilities. Other permits in the watershed (as of October 7, 2008) are CAFO permits (14), mining permits (31), Aquatic Resource Alteration Permits (64), Tennessee Multi-Sector Permits (52), Construction General Permits (60), UST Permits (1), and Ready Mix Concrete Plant Permits (4). Agricultural operations include cattle, chicken, hog, and sheep farming. Maps illustrating the locations of permit sites and tables summarizing livestock practices are presented in each subwatershed.

Chapter 5 is entitled *Water Quality Partnerships in the South Fork Obion River Watershed* and highlights partnerships between agencies and between agencies and landowners that are essential to success. Programs of federal agencies (Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), and state agencies (TDEC/State Revolving Fund, TDEC Division of Water Supply, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, West Tennessee River Basin Authority, and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency). Local initiatives of organizations active in the watershed (Friends of West Tennessee Refuges) are also described.

Point and Nonpoint source approaches to water quality problems in the South Fork Obion River Watershed are addressed in Chapter 6. Chapter 6 also includes comments received during public meetings, links to EPA-approved TMDLs in the watershed, and an assessment of needs for the watershed.

The full South Fork Obion River Watershed Water Quality Management Plan can be found at: <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsm/plans/>